



Circle of Friends is a program which provides social, recreational, and educational experiences for persons in Transitions High School through adults, with mild developmental disabilities.

The program is cooperatively sponsored by Orono Community Education & Westonka Community Education and Services and is facilitated by staff from the Orono Community Education Department. At most events we have 2-3 adult leaders working the event and most often parent caregivers or PCA's join us at events depending on participant needs.**

When: The group typically meets two Thursday evenings per month from approximately 6:30 - 8:30 pm during the "school year." Occasionally we will meet on a Tuesday or a Saturday due to a staff schedule conflict or venue schedule. We usually take the summers off from group activities, but may add some events.

Where: Most activities are held at the Orono school buildings, such as the Activities Center attached to the high school or the Discovery Center in Maple Plain. For other sites we ask for participants to be dropped directly at locations. If carpooling is necessary, we would meet in front of the Orono Community Education building (705 Old Crystal Bay Rd.N., Long Lake, MN 55356) and then participants are transported by personal staff vehicles to the scheduled activity. Many times our locations for events are close enough that participants drive or are dropped off directly at the activity location.

Fees: Fees for most activities are \$5 - \$10.
Occasionally fees are higher when paid directly to an off-site activity.
Support staff can attend activities with their participant at no cost unless it is an activity where we need to pay for a ticket. Support Staff are also asked to please attend, be present in the room and step in as their one to one or group needs assistance or guidance during class. Support Staff play a significant role in the success of all Circle of Friends activities, and we thank each of you for your service.

Flyers: We have the year's activities available each Fall on a calendar and then flyers for each month's activities are either emailed or mailed out to all participants on the mailing list.

Contact: Anita Goman - Circle of Friends Coordinator
anita.goman@orono.k12.mn.us or 952-449-8354

**Circle of Friends celebrates all the abilities of our participants. However, we do not provide one to-one support for our participants. Here are some guidelines to help you figure out if a support staff/caregiver is needed to attend the program with you. If you require support for personal care needs, behavior management and/or fine or gross motor skills, depending on activity, please bring a support staff to aid in your success in the class. Our leaders and volunteers are tasked with making sure the class or activity runs smoothly. We know respite and working on independent skills away from home or family is a goal for many participants, if one of the needs mentioned above hinders the leaders' ability to run the program we will ask that a support staff attends every event with the participant to help manage and assist in those needs to make you successful in your participation. Thanks for helping us provide everyone with the best experience possible.